

FACT SHEET



Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences (PCNFS) Improvement Act

Authorization

The PCNFS (or Coverdell) Program is authorized by Title I of the Omnibus Safe Streets and Crime Control Act of 1968, Part BB, codified at 42 U.S. C. §3797j-3797o.

Administration

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has oversight of this program at the federal level.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has been designated by the governor of Missouri as the single state agency to receive, manage, and administer the PCNFS program in Missouri.

DPS does not sub-award the PCNFS grant but rather reimburses for budgeted cost items when an expense report is submitted.

Funding Allocation

Funds are allocated annually by Congress to provide states and local governments with funding to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services.

The Coverdell law sets a floor for the total amount an eligible applicant State will receive. Approximately 75% of the funds available will be allocated among eligible States based on population for a formula award. Approximately 25% of the funds available will be allocated among States and units of local government through a competitive process for a discretionary award.

Fiscal Year	State Award
FY 2005	\$186,643
FY 2006	\$197,827
FY 2007	\$221,339
FY 2008	\$218,217
FY 2009	\$308,133
FY 2010	\$441,719
FY 2011	\$367,528
FY 2012	\$137,559
FY 2013	\$125,334
FY 2014	\$135,361

Eligible Program Areas

PCNFS funds may be used for 1) Personnel, 2) Computerization, 3) Laboratory Equipment, 4) Supplies, 5) Accreditation, 6) Education, Training, and Certification, 7) Facilities, and/or 8) Administrative Expenses.

The expenses must meet one or more of the following purpose areas:

1. To carry out all or a substantial part of a program intended to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner services in the State, including those services provided by laboratories operated by the State and those operated by units of local government within the State.

Refer to the Department of Public Safety website at www.dps.mo.gov for more information.

2. To eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence, including, among other things, a backlog with respect to firearms examination, latent prints, toxicology, controlled substances, forensic pathology, questioned documents, and trace evidence.
3. To train, assist, and employ forensic laboratory personnel as needed to eliminate such a backlog.

Local Match Requirement

There is no state or local match required under the Coverdell program.

Project Period

The federal PCNFS project period is October 1 to September 30. Requests for extensions must be submitted through GMS for consideration by NIJ program staff.

Reporting Requirements

Recipients of PCNFS reimbursements are required to submit the following report:

1. **Status Report** to measure the results of their work and the impact of funding received. Status reports must be submitted by the 15th day following the reporting period.